

The Files - RD-138, Task Order 2

13 April 1959

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Conference Report - Miniature Data Recorder, CB-3

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1. On 2 April 1959 a meeting was held in Room 2069 [REDACTED] with representatives of the [REDACTED] of Middletown, Connecticut. The purpose of this conference was to discuss the current problems which have been encountered by the R+D Laboratory in their attempt to evaluate the CB-3 and CB-4 engineering models delivered by the contractor. Those present were:

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-E/R+D-IP
- OC-E/R+D-EP
OC-E/R+D-EP

2. A miniature data recorder, CB-3, and the companion playback recorder, CB-4, were delivered by the contractor in December 1958. The equipment as delivered had noise problems on the voice track; therefore, additional external equipment was furnished by the contractor for test and evaluation purposes. The additional equipment consisted of an external amplifier and an external microphone for the voice channel. The primary reason for this change was that positioning of the internal amplifier and microphone with respect to the motor caused electro-magnetic and acoustical noise pickup in the amplifier. Another fault noted by the contractor when delivery was made was that the monitor connector switch was inoperative. It was also pointed out by the contractor that motor failure may occur due to the excessive use and handling that the motor has been subjected to during the development and testing of this engineering model. It was felt by the contractor that the limitations of the unit could be corrected in later models and consideration should be given to these items mentioned when the test and evaluations are conducted. This was agreed to by OC-E/R+D.

3. A cursory examination was made by SPS/EA, and prior to transfer to the R+D Laboratory for test and evaluation, the contractor supplied and installed a new motor in the CB-3 recorder.

4. The contractor was called in for this conference due to the high noise present in the CB-3 record channel amplifiers which rendered an electrical evaluation impossible. The following deficiencies were pointed out to [REDACTED]:

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- (a) High noise present in all 3 channels; therefore, electrical performance of the CB-3 engineering model could not be checked.
- (b) The 1000-cycle reference oscillator was inoperative.
- (c) Tape speed varied from 1.3 inches per second to 1.8 inches per second. (Tape speed should be 1.875 inches per second).

The overall packaging and mechanical design of the unit was considered to be very good by R+D Laboratory personnel.

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5. [REDACTED] suggested that the possible cause for items (a) and (c) could be the different motor used. He could not understand why the 1000-cycle reference oscillator was inoperative since they felt that this unit was a very good design and should be very reliable.

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6. These deficiencies have to be corrected before the evaluation of the equipment can be completed. The [REDACTED] CB-4 playback unit which was sent back to the contractor for repairs is expected to be delivered approximately 6 May. The completion of the engineering and design phases of this project depend on the evaluation of both the [REDACTED] CB-3 and CB-4 engineering models. Therefore, [REDACTED] was requested to conduct a survey of the above mentioned deficiencies and submit a proposal for the necessary repairs. In addition, he was requested to change the electronic packaging and orientation of the voice amplifier and microphone with respect to the motor. This work is to be accomplished on a "time permitting" basis; [REDACTED] was requested to make delivery of the unit by 6 May 1959. This date will coincide with the delivery date of the [REDACTED] CB-4 and allow the R+D Laboratory to conduct a parallel evaluation of the [REDACTED] CB-3 and CB-4 engineering models.

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